Texas Crop Weather

Texas Agricultural Statistics Service

Released: April 12, 2004 (3:00 P.M. CDT)
For the week of April 5 - 11, 2004
TX-CW1504

1-800-626-3142
www.nass.usda.gov/tx

Crop Progress Table - April 11, 2004

Crop	2004	2003	Average 1999-2003
		Percent	
Corn			
Planted	62	61	54
Emerged	53	43	46
Cotton			
Planted	17	14	12
Rice			
Planted	75	56	59
Emerged	45	26	35
Sorghum			
Planted	45	39	39
Wheat			
Headed	16	11	16
Other Field Crops			
Planted			
Soybeans	43	26	23
Sunflowers	10	13	5

Crop Condition Table - April 11, 2004

Item	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Very poor
			Percent		
Wheat	9	36	36	14	5
Range & Pasture	13	34	35	11	7

Agricultural Summary: Continued rains across the state have given many producers a positive outlook on this growing season. Most of the state received between one and four inches of rain from the various storms and showers that were triggered during the week. Rainfall in some areas exceeded 5 inches for the week and one location reported as much as 12 inches. Most stock tank levels had risen or were full after recent moisture. Some areas in the Cross Timbers, Blacklands, and South Central areas could still use more runoff. Due to the rainy weather most of the week, field work was halted and was at a standstill in many areas. Some losses were expected on some of the recently planted acreage across the state due to hail, wind and flooding. Also in several areas, some cotton will need to be replanted due to flooding. Field work will resume and further planting of crops is expected as soon as fields dry enough to support machinery. Most cattle were in good condition and removed from supplemental feeding, although some producers were still feeding. Some disease was reported in wheat crop.

Field Crops Report

Small Grains: Wheat continued to improve and progress across most areas of the state. In the Plains, wheat had approached boot stage. In other areas wheat fields were beginning to head out. In Northern areas, most the wheat was thriving. There was minimal hail damage to some acreage, but nothing too significant. In South Central and Coastal Bend regions there was slight hail and rain damage. Wheat disease and insects were on the rise in several regions. Statewide, wheat condition was rated at 68 percent of normal compared with 62 percent last year.

Corn: Planted corn was benefitting from recent moisture across the state. Planting of corn was halted due to storms and standing water in fields. Corn planting in the Panhandle is expected to begin as soon as fields dry out enough. Field conditions are outstanding as moisture levels were up.

Cotton: In several regions, cotton planting and preparations will resume as fields dry. Producers in the Plains were encouraged by favorable soil moisture available for a dryland crop. Some yellow herbicides were applied in areas of the Southern Low Plains, although many producers in this region were awaiting drying out to apply pre-emerge chemicals. In areas where cotton planting had begun, it may be necessary to replant some flooded-out or damage acreage. In most areas, the rain is expected to benefit the planted acreage.

Sorghum: Land preparations and planting are expected to resume in the Northern Low Plains as weather permits. Planting was halted with the arrival of the rains and is expected to resume as conditions allow. For the most part, planted sorghum in southern regions benefitted from soil moisture, although some will need to be replanted due to flooding.

Fruit, Vegetable and Specialty Crop Report

Pecans: Some pecan zinc sprays were being applied. Pecans were budding out in the Trans Pecos and Edwards Plateau. Reports confirmed that pecans were doing very well at this time. Pecan producers in South Texas began case bearer scouting activities, as they anticipated first generation.

In the **Rio Grande Valley**, rain had slowed fieldwork and harvest of crops.

In the **San Antonio-Winter Garden**, cabbage harvest was continuing. Onions were doing well with no insect pressure.

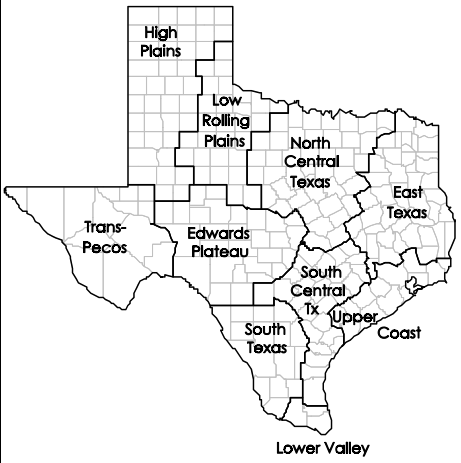
In **East Texas**, peach trees had passed shuck split and were fully leafed. Melons and vegetables were mostly planted and rains delayed what little was left. Also, some replanting may be required.

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report

Green pastures were prominent across the state thanks to high moisture levels. Cattle continued to graze wheat fields. Body conditions were favorable due to supplemental feeding earlier in the season. For the most part no feeding was necessary with the exception of a few producers still doing so due to saturated fields. Shearing and working of sheep and goats were reported. Some branding and vaccinating of cattle continued as well.

Weather Information Table [1]

National Weather Service Climatic Divisions	Previous week (Apr 5 - 11) Accumulation	Month-to-date (Apr 1 - 11) Accumulation	Year-to-date (Jan 1 - Apr 11) Accumulation	1961-90 Annual Normal	Previous three months (Jan - Mar) Percent of Normal
High Plains	1.56	2.32	6.46	18.87	193
Low Rolling Plains	1.01	1.68	7.84	23.78	191
North Central Texas	0.98	1.24	8.57	34.00	110
East Texas	1.30	1.30	12.62	45.69	106
Trans Pecos	0.58	1.90	4.95	12.96	261
Edwards Plateau	1.82	2.59	7.55	24.01	139
South Central Texas	1.01	1.96	7.70	34.48	93
Upper Coast	2.01	2.58	14.30	47.63	131
South Texas	0.39	2.08	5.84	23.49	119
Lower Valley	0.46	2.57	6.75	25.34	117



[1] Average of all stations reporting precipitation data.

Top Soil Moisture by District - April 11, 2004 *

Condition	1-N	1-S	2-N	2-S	3	4	5-N	5-S	6	7	8-N	8-S	9	10-N	10-S
	Percent of Acreage														
Very Short	0	3	2	0	2	6	0	1	11	5	0	0	0	4	0
Short	14	10	7	12	16	18	7	2	29	21	14	0	2	13	20
Adequate	73	84	75	72	79	55	74	80	47	59	46	8	23	64	80
Surplus	13	3	16	16	3	21	19	17	13	15	40	92	75	19	0

* High Plains: 1-N, 1-S; Low Rolling Plains: 2-N, 2-S; North Central Plains: 3, 4; East Texas: 5-N, 5-S. Trans-Pecos: 6; Edwards Plateau: 7; South Central Texas: 8-N, 8-S; Upper Coast: 9; South Texas: 10-N; Lower Valley: 10-S.

Cooperating Agencies:
Texas Agricultural Extension Service, Texas Department of Agriculture, National Weather Service.

Texas Crop Weather (USPS 396-770) is published weekly by the Texas Agricultural Statistics Service, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, TX 78701, (512) 916-5581. PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID at Austin, TX. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Texas AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE NASS - USDA P.O. BOX 70 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767

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